

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 IO-13 ACDA-12 NEA-10 NRC-05 OES-07 DOE-15
SOE-02 DOEE-00 SSO-00 HA-05 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00
/161 W

-----083752 191845Z /42

P 191732Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0714
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY LONDON

1AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO 0244
AMEMBASSY PARIS
XRUFHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 7100
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 08261

E.O. 11 ?2: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, MILL, UR, CU
SUBJECT: CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS MOSCOW

SUMMARY: BOTH GROMYKO AND CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER
MALMIERCA TAKE HARD PUBLIC POSITION ON MILITARY SUPPORT
TO THIRD WORLD TROUBLE SPOTS. THERE IS POSSIBILITY, BUT
ONLY THAT, OF SLIGHT COOLNESS IN TALKS AS REFLECTED BY
SOVIET MEDIA. END SUMMARY.

1. APRIL 19 PRAVDA CARRIES TASS REPORT ON TALKS AND
DINNER SPEECHES OF FOREIGN MINISTERS GROMYKO AND
MALMIERCA. TALKS, SAID TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN A "FRIENDLY
AND CORDIAL" ATMOSPHERE, CONCERNED "FURTHER DEEPENING OF
BROTHERLY FRIENDSHIP AND ALL AROUND COOPERATION" BETWEEN
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TWO COUNTRIES. IN ADDITION, THERE WAS AN "EXCHANGE
OF OPINIONS" ON TOPICAL INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS OF MUTUAL
INTEREST.

2. IN HIS DINNER SPEECH, GROMYKO:

-- STRONGLY EMPHASIZED THAT THE CPSU AND THE SOVIET

GOVERNMENT WILL DO EVERYTHING SO THAT SOVIET-CUBAN RELATIONS BECOME ALL THE MORE DEEP AND FRUITFUL.

-- NOTED CUBA'S ROLE IN NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT.

-- SAID THAT DESPITE DETENTE HAVING BECOME "DEFINITE TENDENCY" IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, IMPERIALIST FORCES TRY TO HINDER THE WEAKENING OF INTERNATIONAL TENSION AND TO FOIST A NEW ROUND OF THE ARMS RACE UPON THE WORLD.

-- RECALLED THAT BREZHNEV'S STATEMENTS DURING HIS RECENT SIBERIAN TRIP UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE OF SOVIET INTEREST IN ENDING ARMS RACE AND DELIVERANCE FROM THREAT OF NUCLEAR WAR.

-- STATED THAT ANTI-SOVIET, ANTI-CUBAN CAMPAIGN WITH REGARD TO EVENTS IN HORN OF AFRICA WAS SPECIAL RESULT OF CONCERN OF "OPPONENTS" OVER STRENGTHENED POSITION OF "FORCES OF PEACE, DEMOCRACY, AND SOCIALISM." "I WANT TO EMPHASIZE," SAID GROMYKO, "THAT IN AFRICA, JUST AS IN ANY OTHER REGION OF THE WORLD, THE SOCIALIST STATES WHICH EXTEND INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE WERE AND WILL BE ON THE SIDE OF THE PEOPLE WHO CONDUCT A JUST STRUGGLE AGAINST IMPERIALIST OPPRESSION, AGGRESSION, COLONIALISM, AND RACISM."

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3. IN RESPONSE, MALMIERCA:

-- NOTED SOVIET ASSISTANCE DURING BAY OF PIGS AGGRESSION 17 YEARS AGO.(APRIL 18 MIN. DEF. NEWSPAPER, RED STAR, CARRIED LENGTHY ARTICLE ON BAY OF PIGS ANNIVERSARY AND MOSCOW'S "FRIENDSHIP HOUSE" HOSTED A COMMEMORATIVE EVENING ON SAME DAY.)

-- SAID THAT CUBANS TAKE ACCOUNT OF FACT THAT, AS RESULT OF INTRIGUES OF MOST REACTIONARY, IMPERIALIST CIRCLES, DANGEROUS SPOTS OF TENSION ARE MAINTAINED IN DIFFERENT REGIONS OF WORLD. "HOWEVER," HE SAID, "WE BELIEVE IN THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF OUR CAUSE, AND IN THE CONSISTENT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRINCIPLES OF PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM." "TODAY," HE ADDED, "WE ARE FULFILLING OUR NATURAL, REVOLUTIONARY OBLIGATION."

4. DURING APRIL 19 CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR, FIRST DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KORNIYENKO SAID MALMIERCA HAD DEPARTED MOSCOW THAT DAY FOR "ANOTHER DESTINATION" IN USSR.

5. COMMENT: BOTH GROMYKO'S AND MALMIERCA'S COMMENTS WITH REGARD TO SOVIET AND CUBAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN AFRICA ARE RATHER TOUGH, MALMIERCA'S PERHAPS MORE SO THAN GROMYKO'S. WE NOTE USE OF PHRASE "EXCHANGE OF OPINIONS" ON INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS -- AN EXPRESSION WHICH OFTEN IMPLIES A DIFFERENCE OF VIEWS, BUT WE HAVE NO CORROBORATIVE EVIDENCE YET WHICH WOULD SUPPORT THIS POSSIBILITY.

6. IT DOES SEEM THAT THE MEDIA COVERAGE GIVEN THE VISIT SO FAR HAS BEEN SLIGHTLY LESS THAN MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED. THERE WAS NO TV COVERAGE ON APRIL 18, FOR EXAMPLE, AND THE PRAVDA ARTICLE IS RATHER SKIMPY.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 08261

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE SOVIET DOCKET HAS BEEN QUITE CROWDED WITH GUYANESE PM BURNHAM, POLISH PARTY LEADER GIEREK, AND FRG SDPG LEADER BAHR (THE LAST TWO BEING RECEIVED BY BREZHNEV) IN TOWN SIMULTANEOUSLY. ALL IN ALL, WHILE THERE IS A HINT OF SLIGHT COOLNESS IN THE AIR, WE WOULD PREFER TO HEDGE OUR BETS UNTIL WE OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. TOON

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